

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the section starting on page 1, line 8, which was previously inserted, as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/514,757, filed on February 28, 2000, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes as if fully set forth herein.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 11, as follows:

The field of invention is electronic design tools and automation, and more specifically methods and systems for facilitating electronic circuit and chip ~~design~~ design using resources accessible over a distributed electronic network such as the Internet.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 13, line 3, as follows:

From a general standpoint, the collaboration server 234 provides collaborative services to both end users 102 and suppliers 106 (see FIG. 1). The collaboration server 234 preferably integrates and serves ~~collaboration-type applications~~ collaboration-type applications such as chat, calendar, e-mail, online seminars, online conferencing, application and desktop sharing. The collaboration server 234 also preferably provides infrastructure support for expert design assistance through a “virtual” desktop presence, which allows real-time interaction of experts and designers.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 18, line 14, as follows:

Further details relating to various aspects of a preferred component selection and management process are described in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. [[_/_/_]] 09/514,674 (Attorney Docket 248/225) filed concurrently herewith, and hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 26, line 24, as follows:

In a next step 624, a purchasing routine is preferably invoked, during which the selected IP core is purchased. Details of a preferred purchasing routine are described herein with respect to FIG. 5. In a following step 626, the selected and purchased IP core is delivered to the user, preferably in electronic format over the Internet 230. As a part of step 626, the portal site 204 preferably performs a protection function where the IP core is protected from piracy or unauthorized use by embedding each IP core

transmitted via the portal site with a digital watermark. One type of digital watermarking technique that may be used is disclose, for example, in copending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. [[_/____]] 09/514,695 (Attorney Docket 247/101) filed concurrently herewith, and hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein. Alternatively, a digital watermark may simply comprise an embedded code (such as an encoded/encrypted identifier or set of identifiers) physically included as part of the IP core software.


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered before examination of the above-identified application. The claims, as amended, are supported in the specification. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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